

NASSAU-SUFFOLK BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the meeting on

April 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Joe Byrnes.

**Attending:**

John Abrenica, Peter Barbeosch, Joe Byrnes, Howie Coheln, Bill Dinner, Ray Elias, Shelly Fishman, Allen Greenbaum, Phil Grella, Lee Launer, Mark Leibowitz, Carol Mathews, Rich Morici, Laura O'Reilly, Susan Scholer, Diana Schuld, David Schwartz, Susan Toporvosky

**Absent:**

Susan Calabro, Susan Denenholz, Al Levy, Jon Kirshner, Mark Krinsky, Alan Kudisch, Jack Sage, Debra Thaw, Silvana Zangri

**Guests:**

Lesley Decker Lucas, Matt Rewinski

**Opening Remarks/Minutes:**

Joe reported that Dori Cohen has resigned from the board. Two of the vacancies were filled with executive board approval with Anita Goldman and Bill Dinner.

The minutes for the January 19, 2016 board meeting were accepted as corrected.

**Nominating Committee:**

Board members were asked to submit names for the nominating committee. Board members who do not want to serve on this committee and those who want to be considered as officers opted not to be on the

nominating committee.

This year's nominating committee is:

Diana Schuld - chairman, Lesley Decker Lucas, Ray Elias, Allen Greenbaum, Susan Toporovsky. Alternates: Phil Grella and Mark Krinsky.

**Financial Report:**

Treasurer David Schwartz: We have ended the year with an improved financial posture. We made a small profit at our Regional. This is huge compared to recent losses at this event.

The ACBL has raised sanction fees for tournaments significantly. There has also been an increase in director fees.

**Tournament Report:**

Tournament Chairman Lee Launer reported on the upcoming Spring Regional from May 11-15, 2016. The schedule of events is basically the same as our previous tournaments. The NLM/LM game will be Wednesday evening. The times for the events have been changed to 10:00 am and 2:30 pm so that players can get out earlier. Bagels and coffee will be served every morning before the events. David Metcalf will be the Director in Charge.

Lee told us that we are working with the Upsky Hotel to resolve the problems at previous tournaments. He said the situation seems to be a bit better. The hotel has been asked to accommodate the shorter lunch break resulting from the change of time for the events.

We are buying tablecloths for a cost of around \$700. The cost of the hotel is the same. Lee estimated that we would need to have 820 tables in attendance to break even.

Volunteers were asked to sign up to work at the prize desk. Grace Basile and John Bell will work with John Abrenica at the partnership desk.

A post-mortem will be offered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday after the

first session.

Lee reported that we are considering the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Exit 57 on a interest in having our business. Lee and his committee are working on a proposal.

Our current Upsky contract will end in 2017. Lee has discussed the issue of aborting the contract with Howie Cohen. If this is not possible we would have to wait until 2018.

Allen Greenbaum reported that Swiss Team tutorials were held at Bridge School of LI, Sagamore and Smithtown in an effort to encourage newer players to our team events. An e-mail blast promoting the team games will be initiated.

Rich Morici suggested that we need to do more in marketing. He talked about making it more professional. He has been asked to be our Marketing Chairman.

A discussion was held on the issue of advertising Regionals at clubs when it would take away business from the clubs. It was pointed out that many times tournament attendance is a bonus for club owners because it increases interest and participation in bridge.

Silvana Zangri is willing to do the Bridge in One Day event at a future tournament. She is accredited by the ACBL to do this event. The September tournament was suggested.

### **Website Report:**

Ray Elias is working with Susan Calabro and Jon Kirshner in an effort to redesign our website. He has contacted other website and reported than no one wanted to share including the ACBL.

The committee is working on creating our own new website. A new website concept has been offered as a prototype. It seems to be an improvement with a better layout.

The maintenance of the website was brought up. Ray told us that Sue Goldman has quoted a price of \$1500 for initial setup and a monthly maintenance fee of \$100-\$250 depending on what has to be done. It could be less if she did not have to do anything that month.

It was suggested that a more definite idea of what monthly fees be determined, perhaps setting a maximum for the year.

**A motion was made by Ray Elias that use Sue Goldman as our Web Manager with a setup payment of \$1500 and a contract for maintenance with board approval. Seconded by Shelly Fishman. Passed.**

It was suggested that we design a new logo for the NSBA.

#### **Islander Report:**

Lesley Decker Lucas asked for input about the reaction to the Islander being online. This was generally favorable and thought to be a good idea.

Because we no longer had constraint of space in a digital Islander we can include more results from STaC events. Lesley told us that board members are welcome to contribute to the Islander. Mark Leibowitz is our club liason. He will send a notice to clubs asking for contributions. It was pointed out that we need to set boundaries about what can be included. Clubs should not be able to use the Club Report for promoting special events.

#### **STaCs and Knockouts Report:**

Phil Grella reported that the B Knockouts for 2015 are completed. The A Knockouts are in the process of finishing. It was suggested that having this event on alternate years might work better because of the difficulties in scheduling.

The February STaC made \$1591 and the April weekend STaC made \$348.

The dates have been set for STaCs through 2018 and we have proposed weekend dates for our unit.

### **Awards Party Report:**

Susan Scholer reminded us that the Awards Dinner is Sunday, May 22 at Sagamore Bridge Club and asked that we promote this event at our clubs.

Former Gordon Duffy award winners were asked to submit suggestions for this year's honoree by email to Susan.

Bob Frick will be asked to direct this event.

### **Education Report:**

Carol Mathews reported that Dr. Khatib donated \$2000.00 to Long Island Bridge for Youth this year. She told us that he has been unhappy with the weekend STaC in his name.

Carol has met with the ACBL Education Co-ordinator. The ACBL has been tighter with its funds supporting school bridge programs.

The Great Neck school program for fifth graders has been successful. Mark Krinsky and many volunteers has worked to make this program a success. Great Neck principals have been pleased and the program will be going to the middle schools.

We need volunteers to make the youth programs work. We need people to volunteer for two hours a week. Carol thanked Susan Toporovsky, Mark Krinsky and Lee Launer for their contributions.

We are planning to do training sessions for volunteers starting in September. The ACBL has new revised material for school programs.

Carol reported that there were issues with volunteers at the Jack Abrams School in Huntington.

### **New Business:**

Lesley Decker Lucas asked if we wanted to have the NLM/LM game at the September Regional. The board wanted to continue this successful game.

We need to recruit new players with fewer than 300 masterpoints. A

suggestion was made that we raise the limit to 500 masterpoints. The sense of the board was that this was not a good idea.

There will be an ad in the daily bulletin at our May Regional requesting volunteers for our teaching program.

It was suggested that historical biographies of significant contributors to our unit be featured in our daily bulletins. Dr. Khatib was suggested.

The issue of including free plays to club in our welcome letters to new ACBL players was discussed. It was suggested that instead we give a free play for a Novice game at a Regional.

The date for our next Board Meeting is Tuesday, July 12. It will be at Sagamore at 6:30 pm.

**A motion was made by Lee Launer to adjourn. Seconded by Diana Schuld.**

**Passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Scholer (for Susan Denenholz)